

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
APRIL 23, 2015

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 206 of Town Hall at 8:34 a.m.

Present were First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Chairman Betsy Hagerty-Ross; Planning & Zoning Vice Chairman Stephen Olvany; RTM Moderator Sarah Seelye and Board of Finance Chairman Elizabeth Mao. Also in attendance were Selectman Susan Marks, Board of Education Vice-Chairman Michael Harman and Town Administrator Karl Kilduff.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Mr. Olvany attended the meeting for Chairman Cameron. Kensett 2 was voted down by the Commission but the proposal may come back to the Commission with modifications. There was discussion in the PZ deliberations about the number of school aged children that are in Kensett 1 and regarding the definition of “aged targeted” and how it might apply to Kensett 2.

The Commission continues to work on the Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

The Commission briefly discussed the potential impacts to the Town of Darien of the shopping mall proposed to be developed at the intersection of I-95 and Route 7. First Selectman Stevenson noted that along with potential traffic concerns, some commercial/retail property owners and developers are concerned about the economic impacts to our downtown Darien.

Representative Town Meeting

Mrs. Seelye made note of the RTM agenda for the May meeting on the budget. Mrs. Mao discussed the resolutions for bonding and the specific projects considered by the Board of Finance. First Selectman Stevenson questioned the bond resolutions as being different than the resolutions approved by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. A general discussion was held regarding bundling projects. Mrs. Seelye expressed a desire for all boards to approve the same resolution from the start of the approval process.

Board of Finance

Mrs. Mao reported that the Board of Finance approved the budget. She stated that the Board of Education came in low and the Town came in lower. The Board found a way to complete capital projects with \$3 million in bonding.

Mrs. Mao wanted to discuss the pending gift from the Darien Athletic Foundation but deferred to the Board of Education

Board of Education

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross noted on-going discussions with the Board’s attorney regarding the structure of the endowment from the Darien Athletic Foundation. This report led to a larger discussion on procedural questions, field usage and fees paid, and use of the endowment to replace fields. The Board of Education was looking to the June RTM meeting to accept the gift of the pavilion at the high school.

Regarding the budget, the Board were waiting on the Education and Finance & Budget Committees of the RTM if they required additional information. It was reported that the Board anticipated ending the year in the black.

The Board of Education met with Milone & McBroom to identify problem areas to be addressed and work on solutions. The report would come through the Facilities Committee before being brought to the full Board of Education.

There remain questions regarding the impacts of redevelopment in Noroton Heights on enrollment. First Selectman Stevenson questioned Board policies on class size, schedule and the team teaching concept as these policies impact the direction of building needs. Mrs. Hagerty-Ross responded that Milone & McBroom were developing a number of scenarios and a final determination would be made once the new Superintendent of Schools starts. She also noted that the Board is not interested in the building at Edgerton; only the site is being examined.

First Selectman

Selectman Marks reported on the attendance of Representative Tong at the Board of Selectmen meeting who encouraged the Board to come to Hartford to understand issues and how the budget is crafted. First Selectman Stevenson felt that the Town should continue to the process of having its representatives come and speak to the Board of Selectmen. She felt that they need to hear from the community they represent in order to understand what is important to Darien and vote accordingly.

The last Western Connecticut Council of Governments meeting was held in Darien. The DOT Commissioner was supposed to attend, but he will come to the May 21 COG meeting.

The Board is living with and responding to parking changes. The waitlists will now be reduced, but there are impacts to different parking lots. She noted that Downtown parking needs to address parking for employees.

The Consolidated Services Working Group would meet the following week to discuss facility management.

The demolition of the old Senior Center on Edgerton and 32 Hoyt Street are all pending RTM approval for the required funding.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Kilduff
Recording Secretary